

**Volume IV: *Monasticism of XV-XVIII century. Medieval tradition in view of challenges of modern humanism*, edited by Michał T. Gronowski OSB and Piotr Urbański**

"Researching Polish Benedictines has a taste of an adventure. Their history remains mostly undiscovered and even underestimated. But new facts are being discovered that not yet form an organized synthesis but get us closer to reaching one". Paweł Szczaniecki, OSB.

Thanks to stability of the Rule of Saint Benedict and its ability to accept different cultural conditions monastic communities were able to challenge modern humanism. We understand hermeneutics of values as the result of interference between three factors: long lasting medieval monastic tradition, Catholicism after Council of Trent (especially the Jesuits way) and Renaissance humanism that modified the Benedictines' world of values and knowledge which was present in Tyniec's intellectual culture since 1570s. to 1750s.

The family of Benedictine orders (Benedictines, Cistercians, Carthusians and Camaldolese both monks and nuns) plays an important role in European culture. Founding an Abbey of Monte Casino by Saint Benedict of Nursia (529) coincided with liquidation of Platonic Academy in Athens by emperor Justinian the Great. Benedictine monasteries gained their identity by the rule of their founder and facing the crisis not only began to form communities schooling for Lord's service but also recreated various institutions and social rules of Roman Empire. Let us remember the rule that ordered every abbey and monastery to keep a library and every monk to read one book in times of Lent. It seems revolutionary taking into account that outside of monasteries hardly anyone ever read.

Due to lack of wide research on modern Polish monastic literary activity we decided to focus mainly on analysis and interpretation of original texts in this tome. They represent different literary genres, both languages (Polish and Latin), different monastic backgrounds and fall within the specified chronological borders. That choice made this book interdisciplinary, with primary focus on literary studies but also presenting papers on artifacts (seatings, paintings and their cult), culture and musicology. These papers are - in our view - representative for the research and may be treated as an attempt to form a synthesis.

The aim of the project is to study the world of values presented in texts written mainly in Benedictine monasteries but also - due to shortage of sources - in Cistercian, Carthusian and Camaldolese monasteries beginning with "Renaissance in Tyniec" that happened during the governance of abbots Jan Łowczanowski and Hieronim Krzyżanowski.